

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	ZAFT Project for the Introduction of the New Technology	DATE DISTR.	8 April 1955	
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1. In early February 1955, the East German State Planning Commission issued an order to the Central Office for Research and Technology (ZAFT) to work out a project concerned with the planning of research and development for the period of the second Five-Year Plan, 1956 through 1960. According to the specifications of the State Planning Commission, this project is to emphasize the importance of new technical developments. It is called the "Project for the Introduction of the New Technology" (Projekt zur Einfuehrung der neuen Technik). Its purpose, as specified by the State Planning Commission, is to show ways and means for East Germany to reach the technological level of the most advanced foreign countries.
2. Shortly after ZAFT received this order, its head, Prof. Werner Lange, called a meeting of all department heads, at which he explained the importance of the project. He emphasized that this project was not just a routine task within the framework of perspective planning of research and development for the second Five-Year Plan, but was expected to aid materially in enabling East Germany to reach the most advanced technological level. Accordingly, the project was intended not only to establish the basic lines of research and development during the second Five-Year Plan period, but also to deal with the most fundamental questions involved in technical progress in East Germany. He gave the following breakdown of the principal problems involved in working out the project:
 - a. The financial problems involved in long-range planning of research and development for the purpose of achieving the highest possible technical progress.
 - b. Problems of raw materials and substitute materials (synthetic substances).
 - c. Organizational problems.
 - d. The problem of determining the principal lines of research and development to be followed from 1956 through 1960.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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-2-

- e. The problem of maintaining the proper relationship between research and development on the one hand and production on the other.
3. In connection with point d, Lange specified that the main task of the second Five-Year Plan for research and development ought to be the solution of the question of how the most serious bottlenecks could be eliminated in the most important sectors of production. This, he stated, could obviously only be done by performing research and development work on questions at the highest possible technical level. As concrete examples of important production problems to be solved during the second Five-Year Plan period by the application of new technical methods he cited:
- a. The problem of high-quality steel production (Edelstahl).
 - b. The problem of wood and wood substitutes.
 - c. The general problem of synthetic substances.
4. The State Planning Commission requested that the ZIFT Project for the Introduction of the New Technology be submitted not later than the end of March 1955.

25X1

-2-

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